

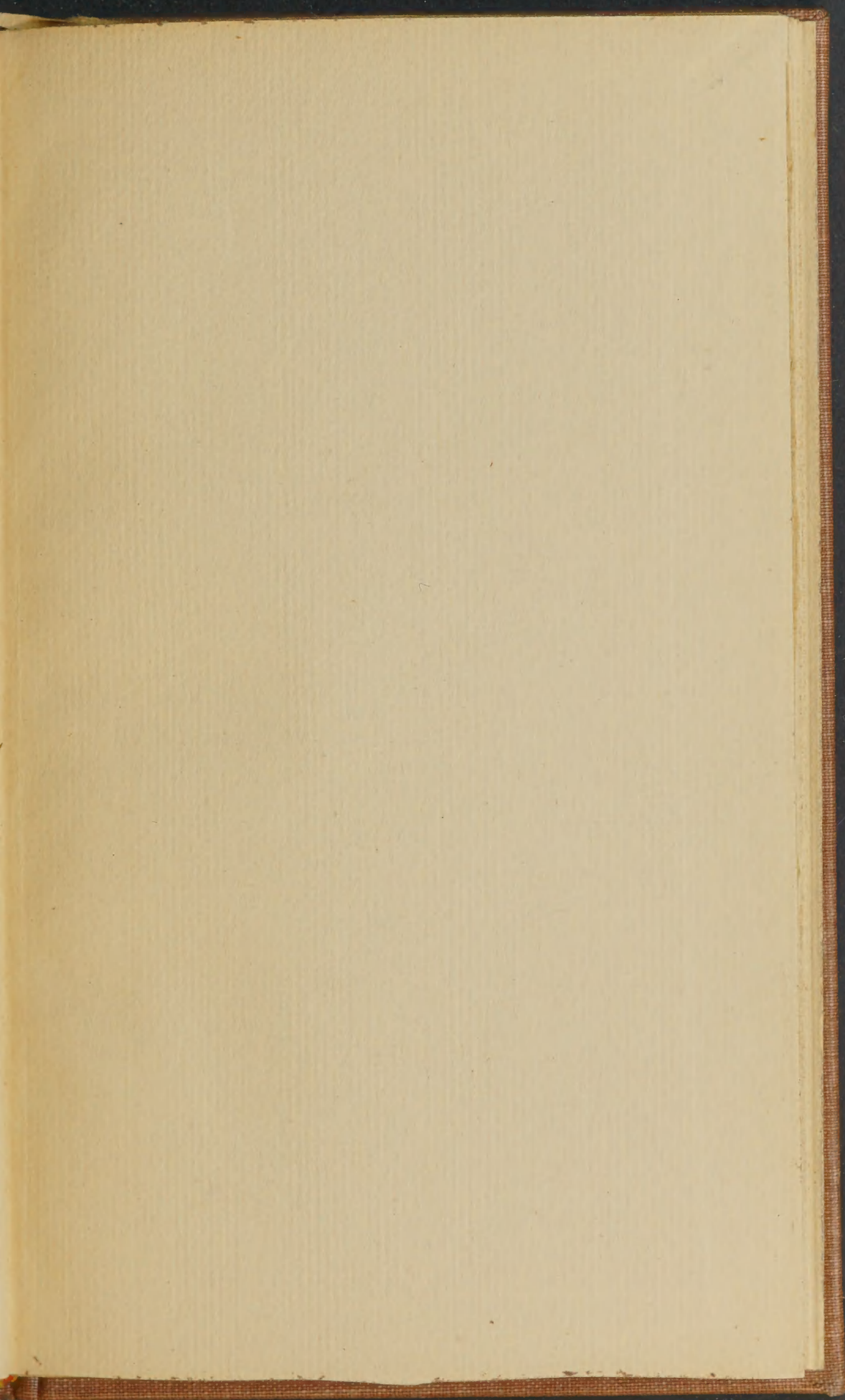
MURDER & PIRACY - NEW YORK 1818

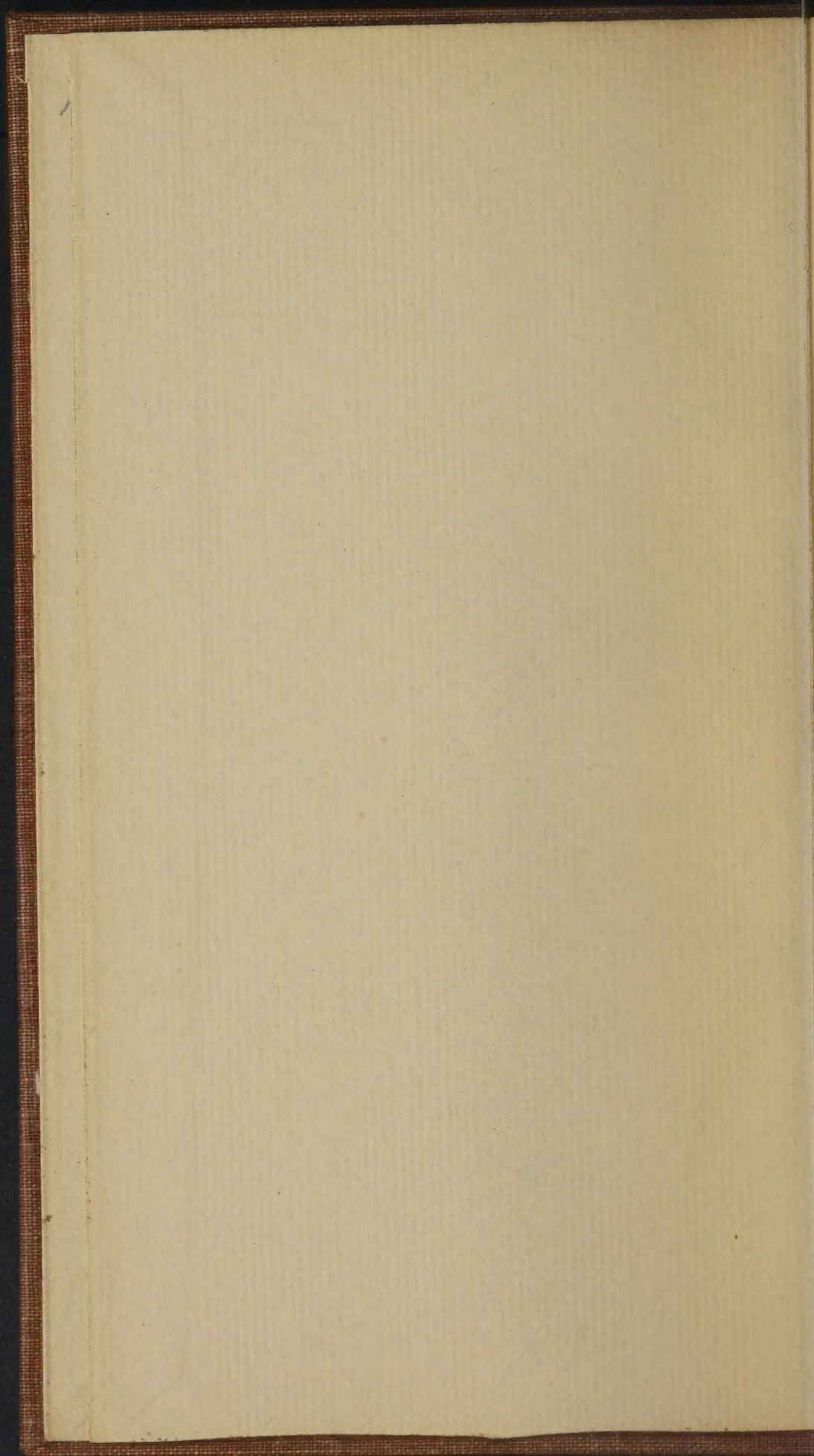


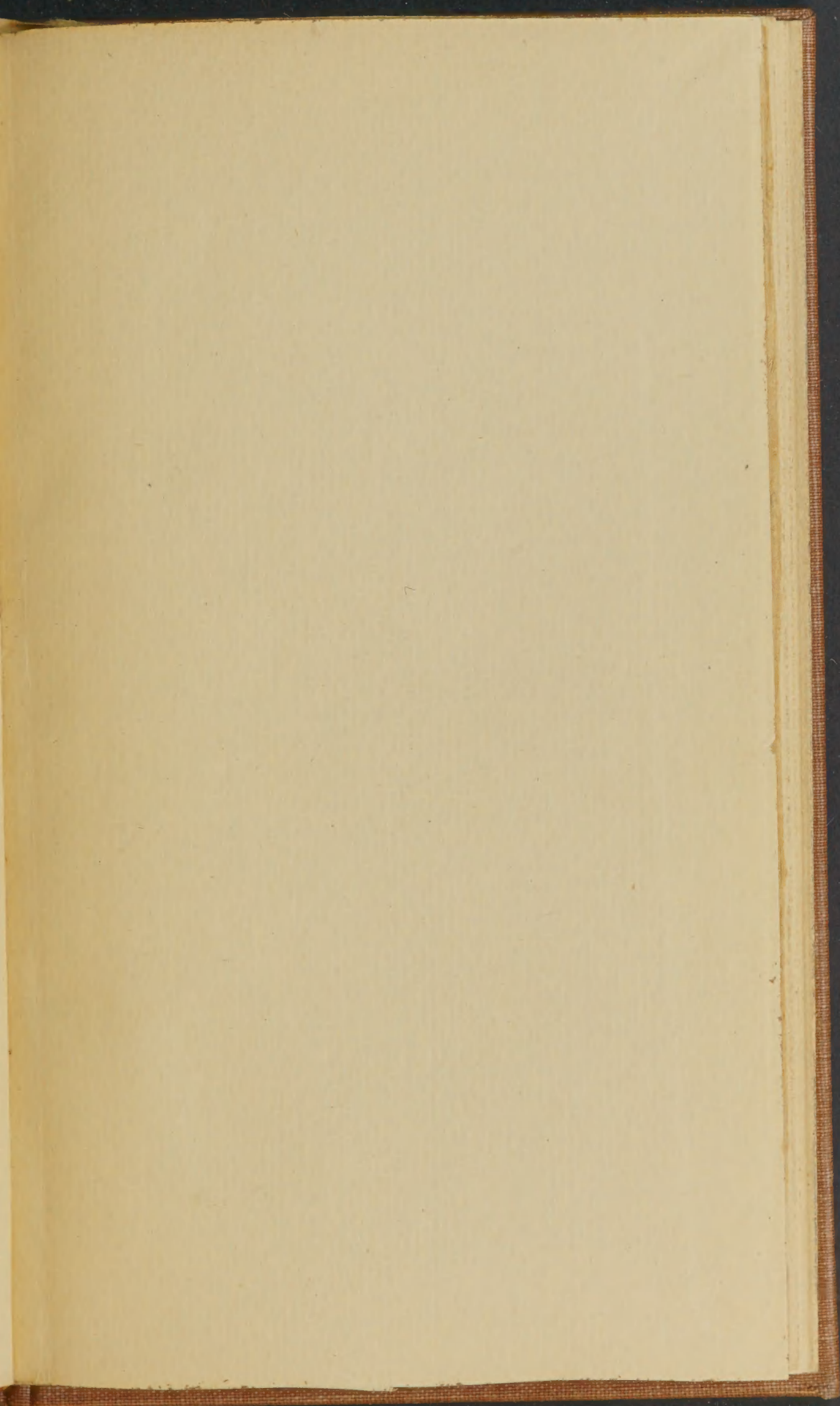


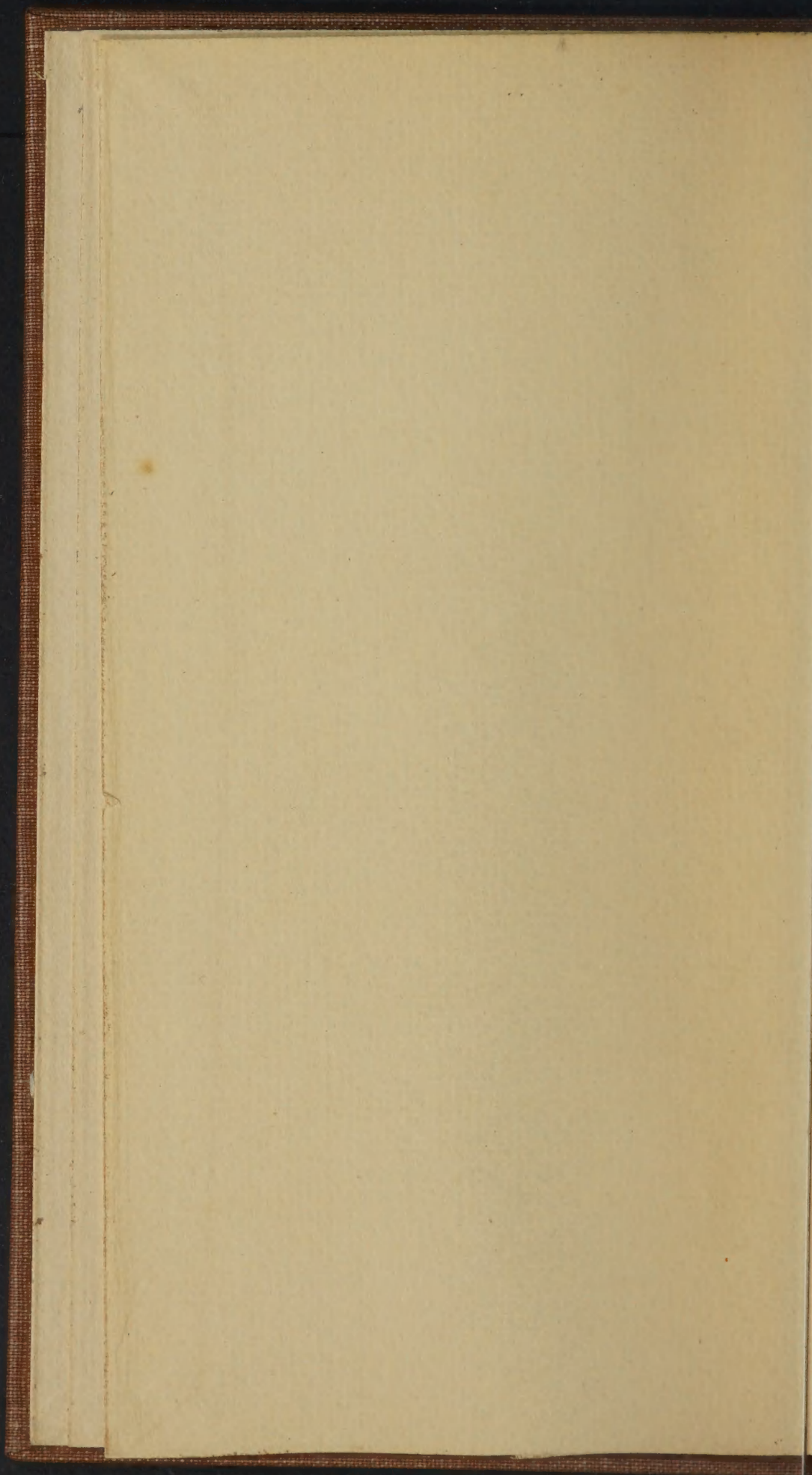


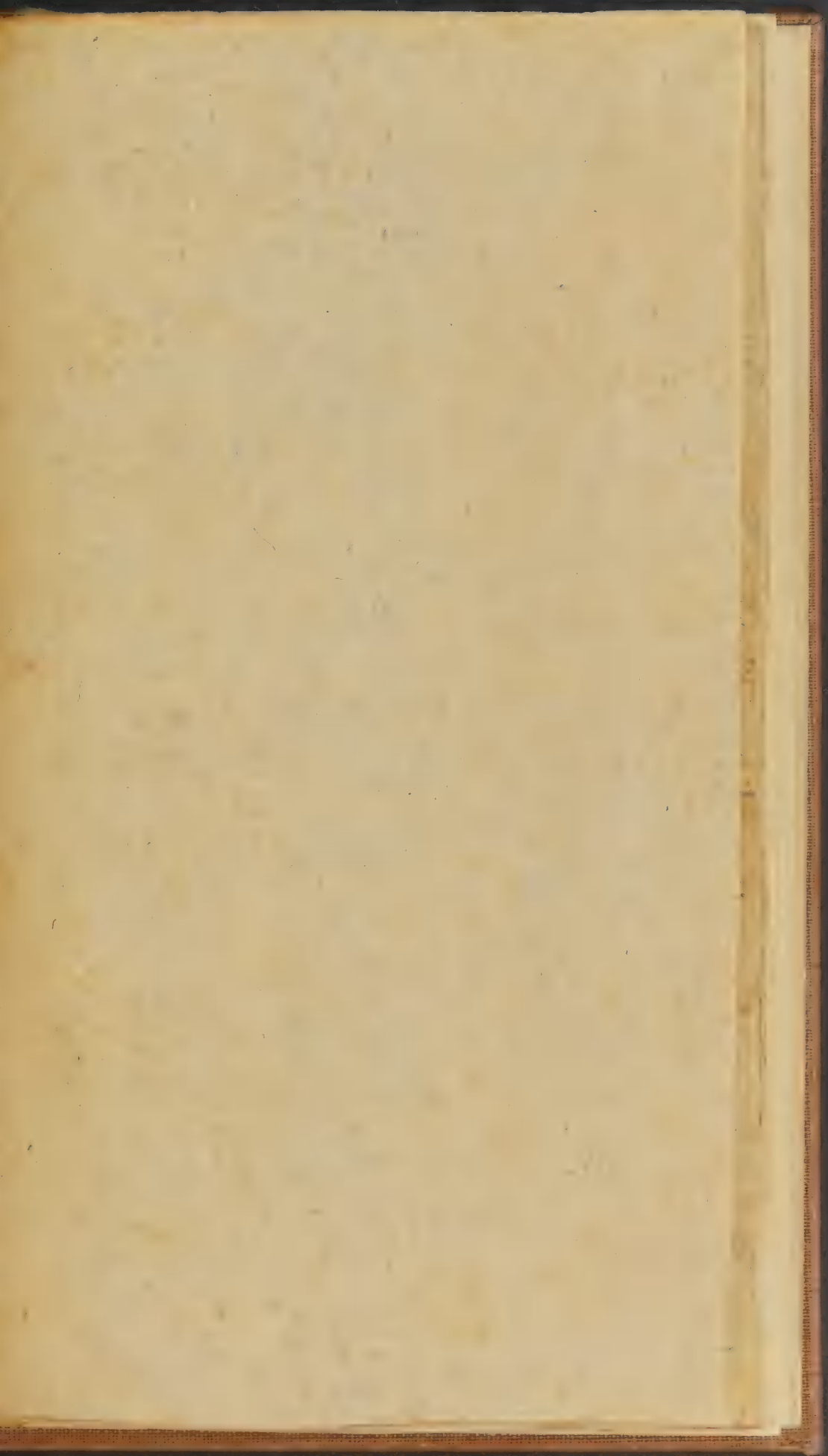
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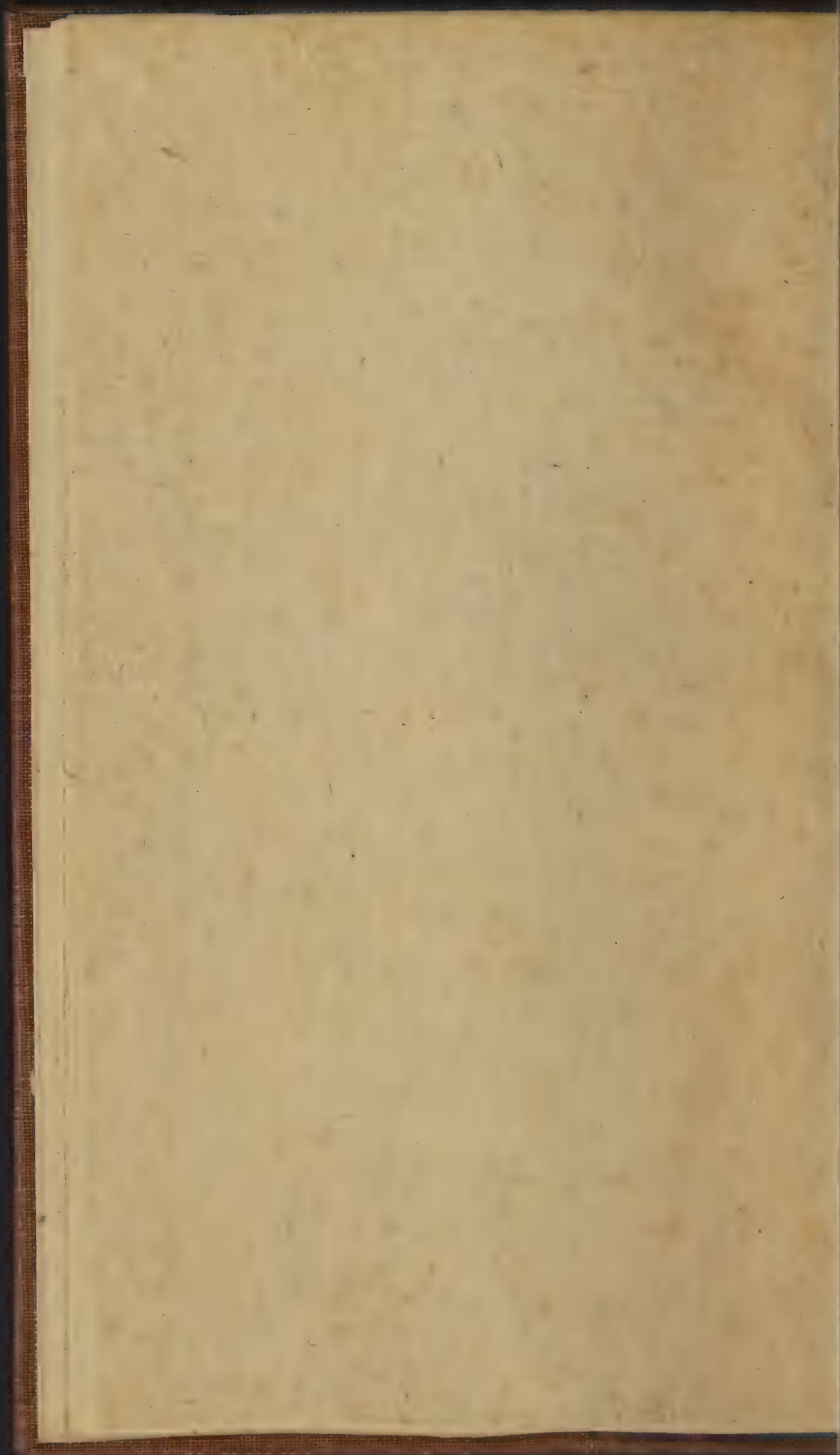












MURDER & PIRACY.

AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

EXECUTION,

JULY 15, 1817,

OF THE

Five Chinese Pirates,

BEHEADED near Canton,

FOR THE

MURDER AND PIRACY

COMMITTED ON BOARD OF THE

Ship Wabash,

Captain GANTT,

Of Baltimore, whilst lying in Macoa Roads,

NEW-YORK:

Printed and sold at No. 139 Cherry-street.

1818.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE
Murder & Piracy, &c.

On or about the 18th of May, the ship **WABASH**, Capt. Gantt, of Baltimore, arrived in Macoa Roads, with the ship **United States** and **Elizabeth**, all from Batavia. On the 20th Capt. G. came up to Canton, in order to ascertain the market for opium, he having a large quantity on board, leaving the ship in charge of the two mates and 12 men and boys. During his absence, the following barbarous transaction took place, as detailed in a letter from Capt. Gantt to his owners.

Extract of a letter from Capt. Gantt, of the ship **WABASH**, of Baltimore, to his owners, dated Canton, June 3, 1817.

“It now falls to my lot to make you acquainted with a most unfortunate and melancholy event, which took place on board the **WABASH**, in Macoa Roads, on the night of Wednesday the 26th May. She was attacked by some Chinese

boats, which came within hail, under pretence of having a letter for the mate, who suffered several men to come on deck; they continued on deck some time before the attack was made, which was commenced by striking down the cook, and stabbing the mate, (having concealed dirks and knives under their clothes till that moment) who was instantly despatched and thrown overboard, and succeeded in taking possession of the ship, by killing some and driving the remainder over-board and down the fore-scuttle. Mr. Hall, first mate, Thomas Richardson, Henry Clarkson, Stewart, and William Kerr, apprentice, were murdered and thrown overboard. Mr. White, second mate, was so cut to pieces that he died a short time afterwards. J. Lockerman and G. Fields, apprentices, jumped overboard, and after swimming several hours, succeeded in reaching one of the Ladroon Islands; and by a fishing boat, were brought on board the next day. The cook, and Robert M'Haven were badly wounded, but not dangerously. The Ladroons had got possession, and the crew retreated to the fore-castle, one of the pirates requested them to come up, and tell where the money was, in case of refusal, they would burn the ship.— One of the crew ventured on deck, and the Ladroons commenced plundering. They first secured the specie, (over \$10,000;) about thirty-three chests of opium, worth from 28 to \$30,000,

together with compasses, sextants, spy-glasses, cabin furniture, &c. were taken. Mr. Wilcocks, the consul, secured the ship next day, by placing a guard of soldiers on board, and when I reached Canton, whither I had gone on the ship's business, I found every thing had been done that was necessary."

The ship United States was only one mile distant at the time, but knew nothing of the affair till next morning.

For several days previous to the attack on the Wabash, Chinese boats had been alongside of the two ships in the Roads, the Chinese on board enquiring if they were not in want of Pilots to carry them to Whampoa; more particularly on the 27th of May, a new boat came alongside the Wabash, the crew came on board, and made the usual enquiry, if the ship did not want a Pilot? In this way they no doubt became acquainted with the true state of the vessel, number of men, &c. On the 26th of May, at 8 o'clock, P. M. three boats were near the Wabash, one ahead, one on the quarter, and one, which carried a light, shewed an intention to come alongside. The crew, thinking it was the same new boat which was there in the day-time, the boatswain had the watch on deck, and called out to the people in the boat—"Are you coming alongside?" They answered—"Yes, we are Pilots, and have a letter from the Captain." The boatswain then cal-

led the first mate, who was in the cabin, and told him there was a boat coming alongside, with a letter. The first mate came on deck, and ordered a rope for the boat, which was given, and she came alongside. Five Chinese came on board the Wabash. One of them took a number of papers out of his pocket, said he had a letter from the Captain, that he came to put a pilot on board the ship, and that he should put a pilot on board the other ship. During this time, several more Chinese came out of the boat, some on the deck of the ship, and others stood in the chains; but no letter was given. The man who had the papers, pointed out several of his companions as pilots, and frequently went to the side of the ship, where the boat was lying, and spoke to the crew, when one or more always came on board. The first mate then called out to the ship's crew to be on their guard, ordered the Chinese away, as he had done several times before, and declared that the ship did not want a pilot. At this moment there were about twenty Chinese, in all, upon deck—The attack began by killing the first mate, and throwing him overboard. Every Chinese had a short sword hid in his left breast, which they drew and struck on the deck, at the same time giving a loud shout. Eight of the crew took refuge in the forecastle, where they were secured by the Chinese, who went to work murdering and wounding the remainder.

The Chinese then threatened to murder the eight men in the forecastle, if they did not point out where the Specie was; upon which Joseph Dousett went on the deck for the purpose of shewing them, where he was instantly guarded by a number of Chinese with swords pointed at him. In this way he took them to the Captain's state-room, and shewed them the two kegs of specie, which the Chinese carried on deck and put into their boat; and then took Dousett down into the hold to look for more specie, but not being able to find any, they shut the hatches upon him, and went away in their boat.

Exertions were making for restitution of the property from the Chinese government. It is doubtful if any thing can be obtained, as the place where the act was committed is not so properly within the jurisdiction of the government, as if it had been above Chunhee.—The Chief Mandarin at Macoa was sent for, and soon arrived at Canton. The Wabash was originally from Smyrna.

EXECUTION, &c.

Mr. Spillman, supercargo of the ship United States, who has arrived in Baltimore from Canton, has furnished the following statement of the Execution of the five apprehended Pirates, who robbed and murdered a part of the Crew of the

Ship Wabash of Baltimore. Mr. Spillman states, that on the 15th of July last, at 12 o'elek, he was requested by his linguist to attend the Execution of the Men in question, being informed that it was the particular request of the Vice Roy, as he lived in the same place in America where the Wabash belonged, Under the strongest persuasion, he consented to go, and consequently permits were immediately obtained in form, and arrangements made for their conveyance to the place of Execution. He was accompanied by Mr. Wm. F. Magee, and after landing they were conducted by their linguists through an immense crowd of people assembled on the occasion, to a house provided for them. After remaining a short time, the linguists informed them the Vice Roy and Head Mandarin wished to see them, that they could be satisfied of the fact of their witnessing the execution. They presented themselves before them, and were treated with great respect and attention. An officer then conducted them to the spot where the criminals had been drawn up in a line about twelve feet apart, waiting on their knees, with their arms pinioned back and heads projected forward for the sword of the Executioner. After taking the situation assigned them, the swordsman began his operation, and as he passed along struck off a head at a single blow, except the fourth, at him he struck twice—The sight was truly painful; and our informant would have

been glad to have been spared witnessing a scene so afflicting to humanity, though just in itself.

These abandoned wretches were executed in the presence of the Vice Roy, Chief Mandarin, William F. Magee of Baltimore, and a large concourse of the natives.

Mr. Spillman was bearer of a letter to the secretary of state, from Mr. Wilcox, the American consul at Canton, containing accounts of the above transaction.

Among the sufferers was the second mate, Benjamin White, who left behind him in this country, a family entirely dependent on him for support. When his melancholy story was made known by Captain Gantt at Canton, to Mr. Wilcocks, our consul, his feeling heart at once prompted him to a plan for the relief of the bereaved family, which was immediately carried into execution. A subscription paper was handed round in Canton, the sum of \$1875 collected, and invested in teas, which came by the ship United States, to the owners of the WABASH, who are made the agents in this country, for distributing this generous donation to the grateful objects of it, and of thus restoring peace to the widow's home, and gladness to the orphan's heart.

We subjoin a copy of Mr. Wilcocks' letter to these gentlemen, together with a list of the sub-

scribers, whose distinguished liberality entitles them to the warmest tribute of admiration from the feeling and the humane.

Mr. Wilcock's Letter.

CANTON, SEP. 22, 1817.

Messrs. S. Smith & Buchanan.

Gentlemen—Enclosed I have the pleasure to hand you, an invoice and bill of lading for 45 chests young hyson tea, the property of the widow and children of Benjamin White, late second mate of your ship WABASH.

I opened a subscription for the relief of this unfortunate family, in consequence of a conversation I had with Capt. Gantt, who represented their situation as quite destitute, from the murder of poor White, on whom their whole support depended. It may be asked, why the whole sum is given to one family, where five persons lost their lives? The reason is this, upon enquiry, it was ascertained, that the other four unfortunate sufferers were single men, without any relatives dependent on them.

You have also under cover, a list of subscribers, &c. If I obtain any further donations, I will remit the amount, together with the balance now due, by your ship Sidney.

I am gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

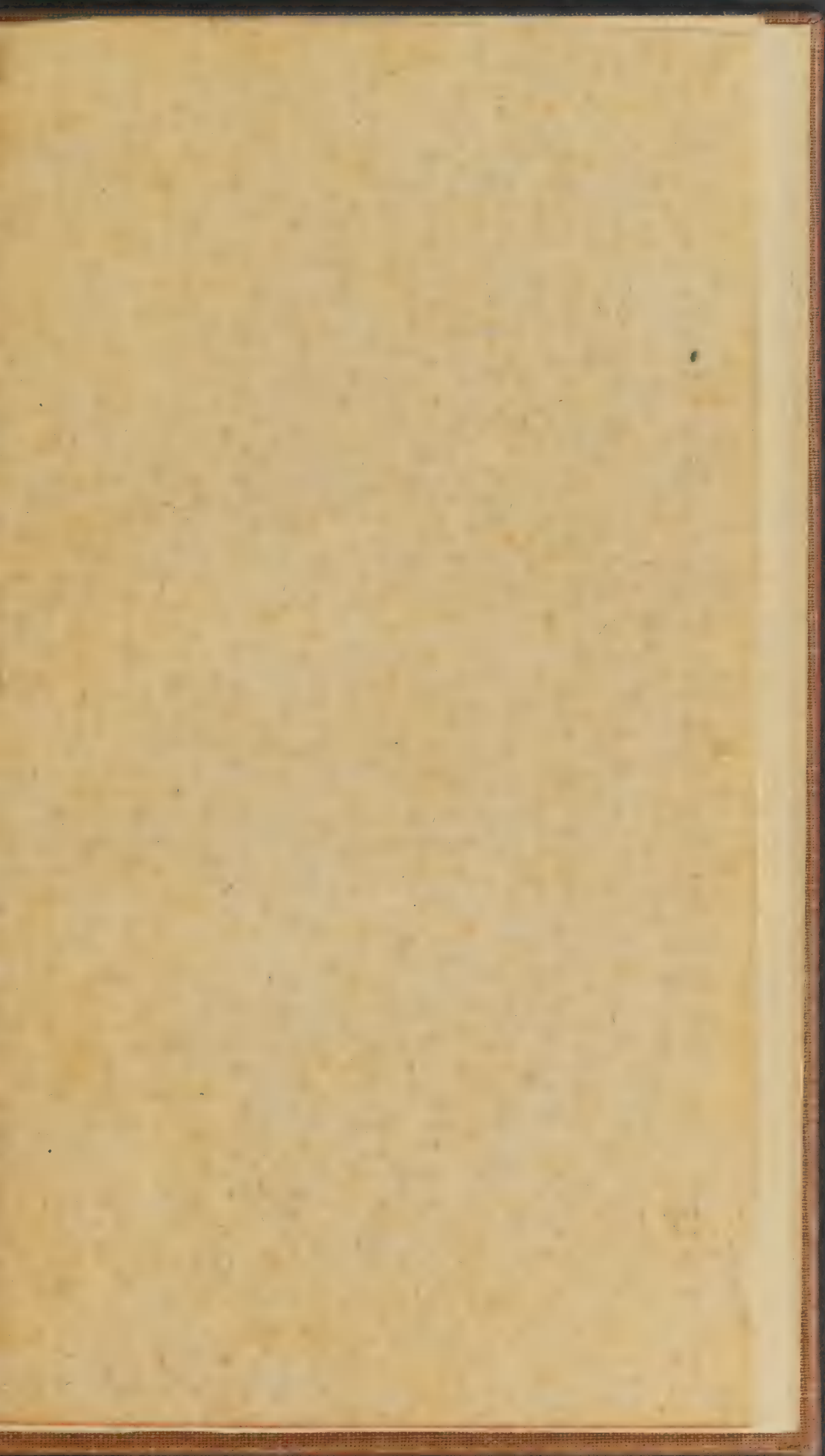
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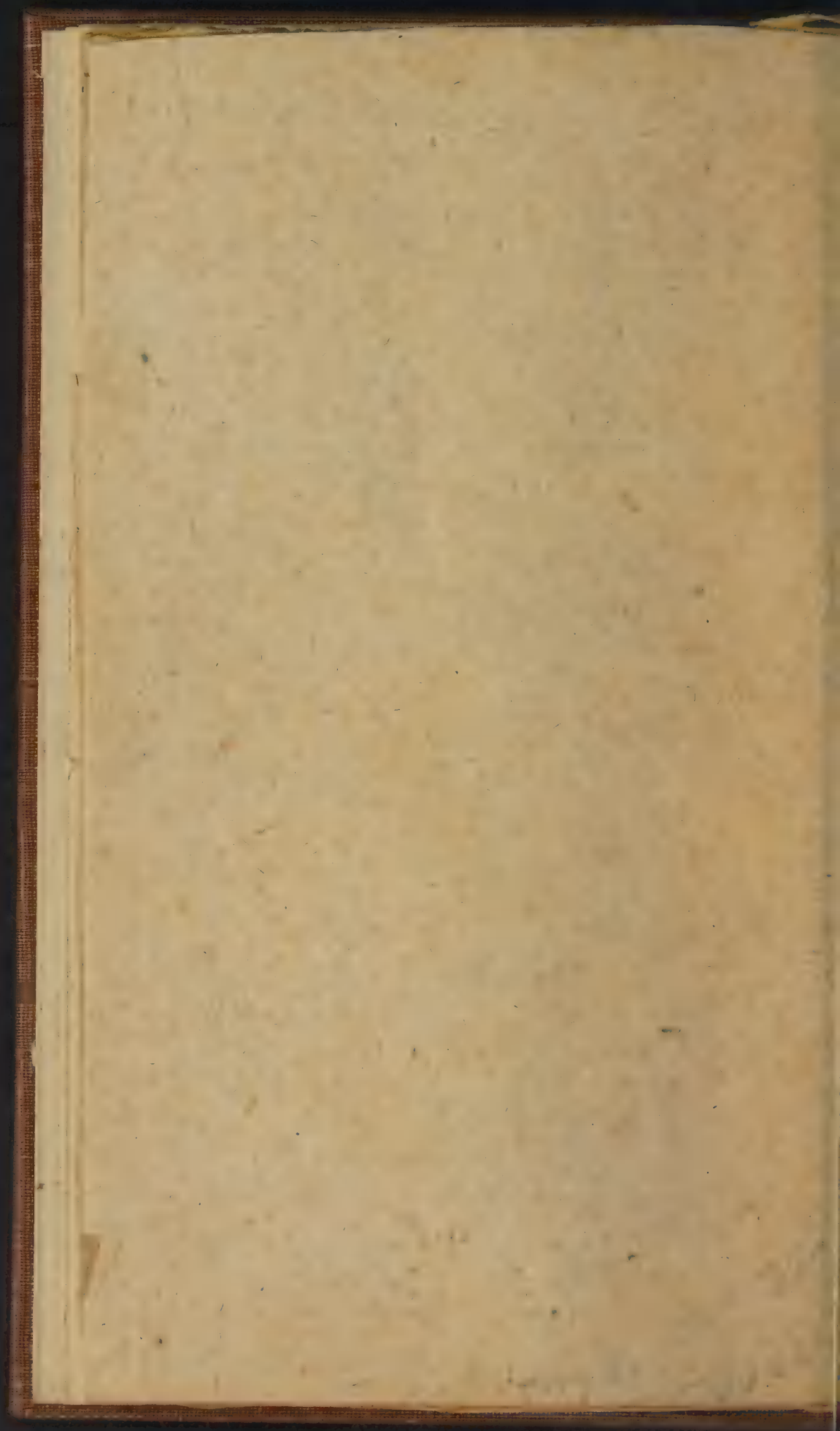
T. C. WILCOCKS.

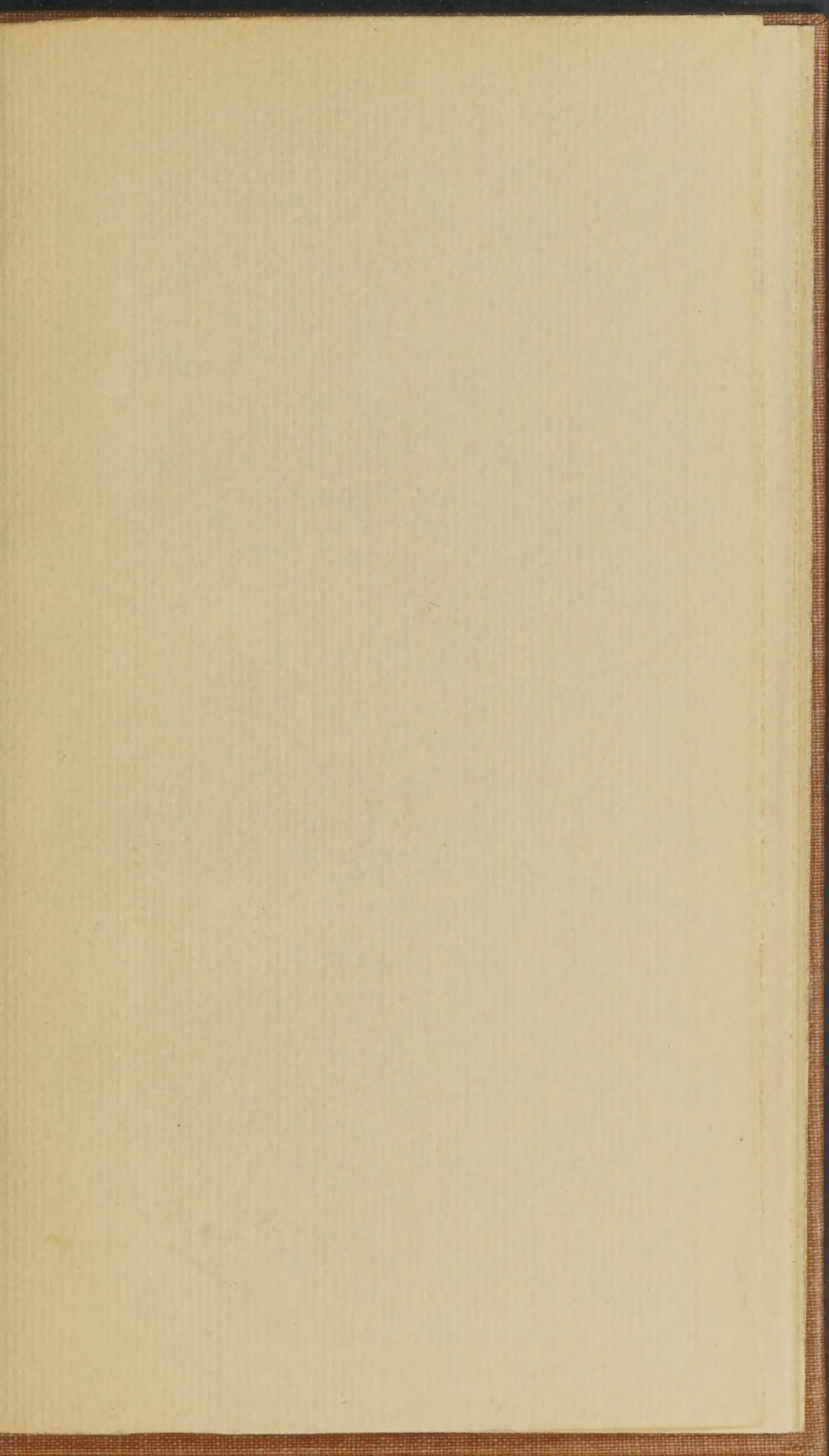
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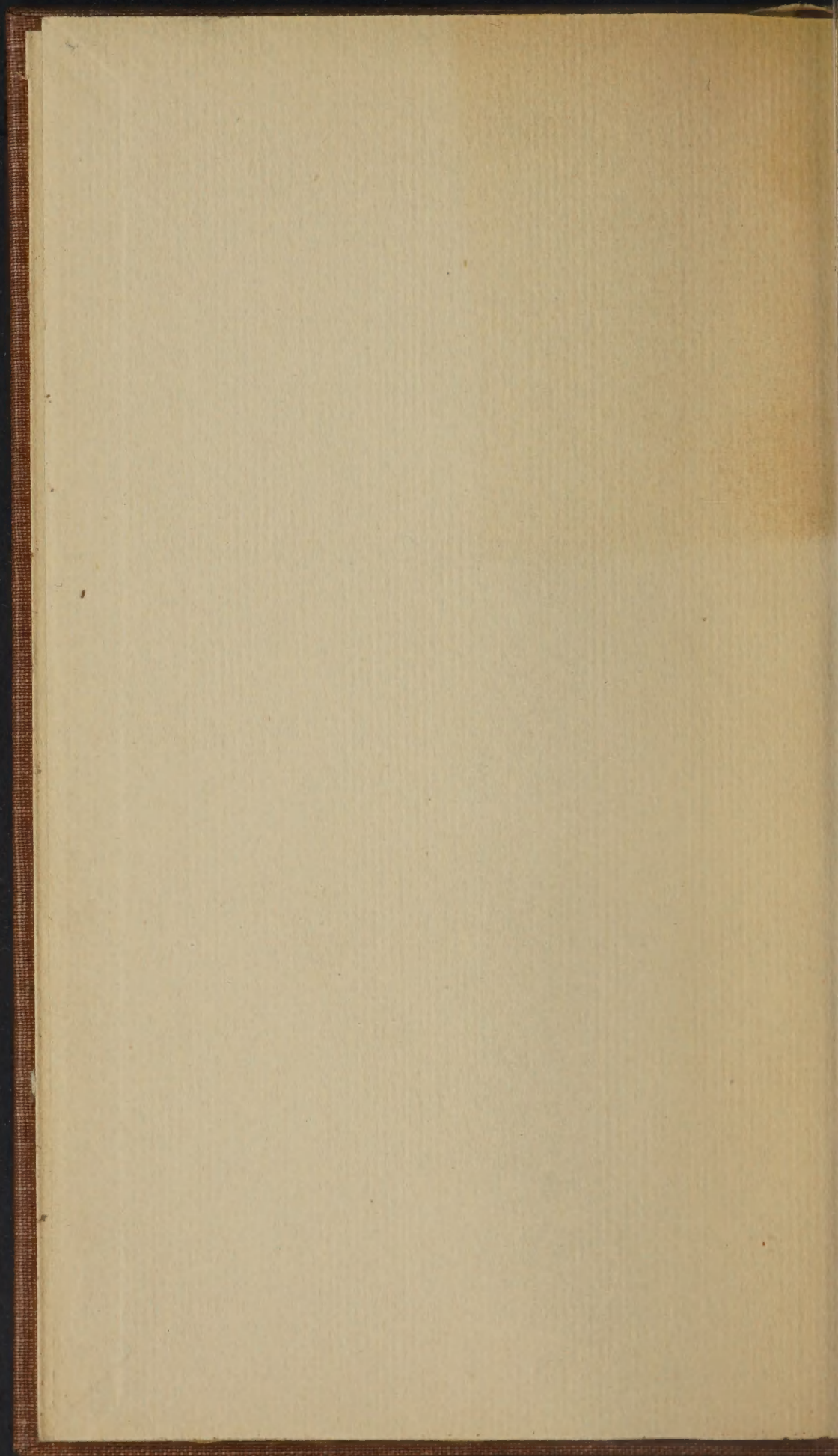
B. C. Wilcocks,	\$200	Hong Merchants.	
J. P. Cushing,	200	Houqua,	\$200
Nic. G. Ogden,	50	Paunkhequa,	200
Wm. F. Megee,	150	Cheoqua,	200
T. H. Bestwick,	50	Mowqua,	200
John L. Bowers,	25	Kurqua,	100
T. F. Spillman,	25	Pacqua,	100
A. G. Ralston,	50		
A. R. Latimer,	50		\$1000
Henry Higginson,	25		
James P. Sturges,	50		
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